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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/060 W
---------- 103493
R 271654Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4772
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL ANTWERP

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07628

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, BE, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONSULATE IN ANTWERP

SUMMARY: THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO ACT FOR THE MOMENT ON THE LONG PENDING SOVIET REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN ANTWERP. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SOVIETS HAVE FOR MANY MONTHS ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN BELGIAN PERMISSION TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN ANTWERP. THE REASONS GIVEN ARE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S NEED TO PROVIDE CONSULAR SERVICES TO THEIR SEAMEN AND BECAUSE ANTWERP IS USED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AS THEIR MAJOR COMMERCIAL CENTER IN WESTERN EUROPE.

2. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REFUSED THE SOVIET REQUEST, BUT HAS COUNTERED WITH A SOMEWHAT VAGUE INTEREST IN OPENING A POST SOMEWHERE IN THE USSR. LENINGRAD AND ODESSA HAVE BOTH BEEN MENTIONED. WITHIN THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT THE ISSUE OF A SOVIET CONSULATE IN ANTWERP HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF ACRIMONIOUS DISPUTE BETWEEN THE SURETE (WHICH OPPOSES THE IDEA UNLESS ITS BUDGET IS INCREASED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE COVERAGE) AND THE FOREIGN
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MINISTRY (WHICH NOTES THAT ALL SOVIETS IN BELGIUM

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ARE SPIES AND THAT A FEW MORE UNDER CONSULAR
COVER WOULD NOT MATTER). AFTER MONTHS OF DISAGREEMENT,
THE ISSUE WAS RAISED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER,
WHO HAS DECIDED NOT TO ACT ON THE SOVIET REQUEST
FOR THE MOMENT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TOLD
US ISSUE WAS "DEAD". RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-0424
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET CONSULATE IN ANTWERP SUMMARY: THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO
TAGS: PINR, PFOR, PDIP, BE, UR, ANTWERP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006